ganized, that wealth and female ſoftneſs equally tend to debaſe mankind, and are produced by the ſame cauſe; but allowing women to be rational creatures, they ſhould be incited to acquire virtues which they may call their own, for how can a rational being be ennobled by any thing that is not obtained by its *own* exertions?

CHAP.

CHAP. IV.

OBSERVATIONS ON THE STATE OF DEGRADATION TO WHICH WOMAN IS REDUCED BY VARIOUS CAUSES.

THAT woman is naturally weak, or degraded by a concurrence of circumſtances, is, I think, clear. But this poſition I ſhall ſimply contraſt with a concluſion, which I have frequently heard fall from ſenſible men in favour of an ariſtocracy: that the maſs of mankind cannot be any thing, or the obſequious ſlaves, who patiently allow themſelves to be penned up, would feel their own conſequence, and ſpurn their chains. Men, they further obſerve, ſubmit every where to oppreſſion, when they have only to lift up their heads to throw off the yoke; yet, inſtead of aſſerting their birthright, they quietly lick the duſt, and ſay, let us eat and drink, for to-morrow we die. Women, I argue from analogy, are degraded by the ſame propenſity to enjoy the preſent moment; and, at laſt, deſpiſe the freedom